

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02

DODE-00 IO-03 L-01 PRS-01 MCT-01 /042 W

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R 172052Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1610

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

S E C R E T MANAGUA 5332

LIMDIS

PANAMA FOR AMBASSADOR JORDAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NU, PN

SUBJECT: SOMOZA'S RELATIONS WITH TORRIJOS TAKE TURN FOR THE WORSE

1. PRESIDENT SOMOZA'S RELATIONS WITH TORRIJOS APPEAR TO HAVE TAKEN A TURN FOR THE WORSE. LAST WEEK SOMOZA TOLD ME THAT HIS AMBASSADOR TO PANAMA, DANILO SANSON ROMAN, REPORTED TO HIM THAT TORRIJOS HAD BLAMED NICARAGUA FOR THE OCTOBER 6 CRASH OF THE CUBANA AIRLINER NEAR BARBADOS. AMBASSADOR SANSON CLAIMED THAT TORRIJOS HAD MADE THIS CHARGE TO THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR. SOMOZA SAID THAT HE WAS FURIOUS WITH TORRIJOS FOR SPREADING SUCH IRRESPONSIBLE RUMORS, AND THAT HE INTENDED TO TELEPHONE TORRIJOS TO COMPLAIN.

2. SOMOZA ADDED THAT TORRIJOS RECENTLY REPLACED PANAMA'S AMBASSADOR TO NICARAGUA AND INSTRUCTED THE NEW AMBASSADOR TO QUOTE IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES UNQUOTE. YET TORRIJOS AS THE SAME TIME INDULGED IN RECKLESS AND UNFOUNDED CHARGES AGAINST HIS GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT HE CONSIDERED SUCH CONTRADICTIONARY CONDUCT TO BE

TYPICAL OF TORRIJOS.

3. SOMOZA ALSO EXPRESSED HIS ANNOYANCE AT TORRIJOS FOR ALLEGEDLY ALLOWING MEXICAN-NICARAGUA TERRORIST, EDUARDO CONTRERAS, TO TRANSIT

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PANAMA RECENTLY EN ROUTE FROM CUBA TO NICARAGUA WITHOUT INFORMING

HIM. CONTRERAS WAS THE LEADER AND ORGANIZER OF THE DECEMBER, 1974,
TERRORIST ATTACK IN MANAGUA AND WAS KILLED LAST WEEK IN AN ARMED
CLASH WITH THE NICARAGUAN NATIONAL GUARD.
THEBERGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, AMBASSADORS, ALLEGATIONS, AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANAGU05332
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760429-1145
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761138/aaaabgxv.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOMOZA'S RELATIONS WITH TORRIJOS TAKE TURN FOR THE WORSE
TAGS: PFOR, NU, PN, CUBANA AIRLINES, (TORRIJOS HERRERA, OMAR), (SOMOZA DEBAYLE, ANASTASIO), (SANSON ROMAN, DANILO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006